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HEALTH
A 15 JUL 1946
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Aysgarth,
Yorkshire.

TO THE AYSGARTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1945.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M	F	
Births	Legitimate	33	17	16	Birth Rate 10 . 51
	Illegitimate	3	2	1	

There was three stillbirths, one child being illegitimate.

Deaths	Total	M	F	
	54	23	31	Death Rate 15. 77

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth.	from Sepsis	Nil
	From other causes	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1000 births Nil

Deaths from Measles	(All ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough	(All ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea	(under 2 years)	Nil

Infectious Disease.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1945.

Diseases	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Enteric	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	3	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	60	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	148	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	3	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis.

Two notifications of the above have been received during the year, and there were four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Up to the 31st December 1945, 92.80% of school children and 72.66% of pre-school children have been immunised.

Herewith I append the Report of the Council's Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to remain,
Your obedient Servant.

W.M.PICKLES,

Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Dr.Pickles.

I have the honour to submit the following report for the year ended 31st, December. 1945 for your approval.

1. Water Supplies:

The Council have the administration of 16 sources of domestic water supply throughout the District and it has been my earnest endeavour to visit these schemes regularly during the year.

A number of complaints from various parts of the District, with regard to shortage of supply were received. These were mainly due to weather conditions such as frost causing burst service pipes or heavy rain storms silting up the intakes, or a shortage of water at the source. All complaints were immediately investigated, and where possible, the necessary attention given to relieve matters.

No work of major importance to improve the water supplies in the District has been carried out during the period under review, and although the Council's Consulting Engineer has submitted reports, and in some cases, details for improving supplies, no definite action, so far as carrying out the work, has been proceeded with, as the schemes have not altogether fallen in with the wishes of the Council and have had to be amended. This has resulted in constant delaying action, which, in my opinion, is quite the wrong policy to adopt. I would suggest that in order to push matters forward, the Council take advantage of their Specialists advice and forward all schemes, immediately they are proposed, to the County Council for their observations. By so doing, outside opinion on schemes will be obtained and the Council will then be in a position to put forward any amendments to the Ministry, and so qualify for grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act.

One scheme for the extension and improvement of supplies for the village of Hardraw was formally submitted to the Ministry for approval early in the year, but this was turned down on a report from the Inspector, who stated that their was very little evidence of a shortage of supply. Since this occured, several complaints of a shortage of supply have been reported at Council Meetings by representatives for the Parish, so that I would stress the needs of this village along with those of the villages of Simonstone and Sedbusk to be given early attention.

Bacteriological analysis of samples of water is carried out by the staff of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton, some 42 samples obtained from the Council's supplies having being submitted for test during the year.

Remarks in previous annual reports regarding the purity of supplies again apply, surface pollution being the cause of a great deal of trouble in the Area and is the subject of investigation by the Council's Engineer.

A number of new connections to the Council's mains in various parts of the District have been made during the year, the majority of these being for farm premises in order to assist the production of a better milk supply, several being grant aided by the War Agricultural Executive Committee.

2. Sewerage Disposal and Drainage:

The various sewage disposal schemes in the Area have been regularly visited during the year, and although some of these plants are, in my opinion, overloaded for present day requirements, and will require attention before very long, no work of any note has been carried out to them apart from increasing the depth of the tanks at Hardraw.

Part time attendants are employed on all these schemes and with one exception during the year, it has not been necessary to complain as to the condition of the works. The plant serving the village of Burtersett was neglected for some time by the attendant who had been ill but a new man was secured and the works are in reasonable order again.

Several more houses have been connected to the sewers in various parts of the District, whilst additional sanitary conveniences, such as baths and inside water -closets have been installed in a few houses. This is to be commended, and I feel sure that if labour and materials were more readily available, a considerable number of owners would have similar facilities provided in their properties. Several villages have no proper facilities for drainage, and these should be dealt with as early as possible and Government aid sought with regard to cost.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal:

I am pleased to report that after several attempts, it has been found possible to commence a regular household collection of refuse in the villages of Askrigg and Worton, and the service has also been extended to include the hamlets of Nappa Scaur and Woodhall. This service is greatly appreciated in those portions of the District now served, and I anticipate, that before very long, other villages in the District will request that they be given similar facilities. When that time comes, difficulty will be experienced in obtaining suitable sites for the disposal of the refuse, as it has already been said that the rate-payers in one Parish will not have the refuse from another part of the District tipped in their Parish.

Why this attitude should be adopted, I am unable to say, as the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and a central tip would make matters much easier and be more readily kept under supervision and control.

The collection of salvage has been far from satisfactory during the year, mainly due to a great falling off of suitable material and the cessation of hostilities. Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the necessary transport facilities to have the waste paper in particular removed to the paper mills. The available contractors in the District who have suitable vehicles, have been more profitably employed, and quite a store of this material is waiting to be removed.

4. Food and Drugs Act:

(a) Milk & Dairies:

There were 274 purveyors of milk in the Area on the register at the end of the year, these include 10 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk who are holding Accredited Licences. The bulk of the milk produced in the District is sent to the Wholesale Market, but in summer time the two local dairies deal with a considerable amount for the manufacture of cheese.

195 Visits were made to farm premises in the Area during the course of duty, and considering the acute shortage of labour, the majority of premises were found to be in reasonably satisfactory order. Alterations and improvements have been carried out and I am aware of a number of owners and occupiers who are prepared to recondition their premises, if the difficulty in obtaining the necessary skilled labour could be got over, but reconstruction work has to be left in abeyance for the time being.

There are, however, a small number of farms where conditions are far from being up to standard. These are premises, which, prior to the war, were never regarded as dairy farms but have of necessity, gone over to milk production. The only satisfactory way to deal with these premises, is to turn them into rearing farms again as early as possible, otherwise the whole farm buildings will have to be demolished and new premises erected.

(b) Meat and Food Inspection:

The meat traders in the District obtain their supplies from the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughter -house at Leyburn, and the inspection of carcasses is carried out jointly by the Leyburn Inspector and myself. My remarks in previous reports with regard to the quality of the meat available in the District still apply.

9 Licences to slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, were in force in the Area at the end of the year.

Periodical visits were made to all foodshops in the District during the year, and one appreciates the cooperation of the tradesmen when these premises are visited.

5. Housing and Public Health Acts:

The question of extensive repairs to cottage property in the Area has again been found almost impossible during the year. The shortage of adequate labour for work of this discription has been particularly noticeable, and leads one to wonder whether work of such a nature will ever be carried out in a District where skilled labour is so short. The issue of Licences on behalf of the Ministry of Works has to be undertaken by a Local Authority and this has resulted in more onerous duties. Several owners have taken advantage of the Licensing proceedure to have major alterations to their property put in hand, but none of these were completed at the end of the year. Quite a number of premises have had minor improvements, such as the renewal of cooking facilities and additional sanitary accommodation provided. On the whole, owners of property have had defects to their property remedied when requested, in a very reasonable manner and as early as possible, and in most cases delays have been caused through the lack of suitable labour.

The inspection of working class property or all houses under a rateable value of £ 26 per annum, as reccommended by the "Hobhouse Report" is proceeding, if only slowly, but difficulty is experienced in this task mainly due to the pressure of other duties. As a result of these inspections, the houses are being classified as suggested in the report.

As pointed out in previous reports the Council have not adopted any byelaws with respect to new Streets and Buildings or Working Class Dwellings, but the Ministry's Model Byelaws in regard to the former have been discussed and are to be adopted at an early date.

6. Overcrowding:

(a)	No. of dwelling houses overcrowded at beginning of year -- -- -- --	5
(b)	" " families dwelling therein -- -- -- -- --	5
(c)	" " persons dwelling therein -- -- -- -- --	35
(d)	" " new cases of overcrowding during the year	1
(e)	" " cases relieved during the year -- -- --	1
(f)	" " families concerned in such cases -- --	1
(g)	" " persons " " " " -- -- --	11

7. Petroleum Spirit:

As a result of the lifting of the ban on the storage and sale of Petroleum Spirit, 7 Licences were in force at the end of the year. Regular visits to the premises concerned are carried out, and no complaints with respect to these premises have been found.

May I once again express my thanks through you to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the members of the staff and yourself in particular for the willing cooperation and assistance I have received in enabling me to carry out my duties during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.WARBURTON.

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.